(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any such demand with justification thereof were received from the Government of Maharashtra during the last five
years;

(d) if so, the year-wise details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by Government on each of such demand of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER F COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) and (b) No Sir, Telegraph offices are opened on the justification of traffic. Each case received as demand either at the Telecom Circle level (State) or in the Telecom Directorate Headquarters, is examined on the basis of traffic and whenever technically and administratively they are feasible, the Telegraph services are provided. This may be opened in Post Office wherever such office is available subject to the condition that the Postal authorities agree to run the service on agency basis.

Whenever such an office is opened, it is known as Combined Posts and Telegraphs Office.

(c) No.

(d) Nil.

(e) Question does not arise.

**Loss due to strike of Postal Employees**

1985. SHRI O.P. KOHLI:
SHRI SANATAN BISI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the postal and telecommunication employees remained on strike for seven days in the month of October throughout the country over the bonus issue;

(b) the loss of revenue suffered on account of the strike;

(c) the reasons why the strike was allowed to continue for as long as seven days:

(d) whether Government propose to fix responsibility for this inordinate delay in setting the bonus issue; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir. Majority of Group C&D Departmental Employees and Extra Departmental Agents of Department of Posts remained on Strike from 23.10.96 to 29.10.96.

(b) The loss of revenue suffered on account of the strike was approximately Rs. 40.6 crores.

(c) The Staff Federations wanted a Cabinet decision first on their demands and did not call of the strike despite repeated requests including appeal by Minister (C).

(d) and (e) The notice for indefinite strike was received on 18.10.96 and the issue was settled on 29.10.96 after obtaining Cabinet approval. There was thus no inordinate delay in settling the bonus issue.

**Financial position of Major Ports**

1986. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the financial position of the major ports;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of the financial positions of different major ports; and

(c) the steps taken to remove the financial crisis of different major ports?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRITG. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A statement showing the details of the operating income and operating expenditure of the 11 major ports during 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 is annexed as Annexure *[See Appendix 179, Annexure No. 39].* It would be seen that all the major port trusts have shown operating surpluses.

**Loss to 1TI**

1987. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IT! is estimated to suffer loss in the tune of Rs. 150 crore and that more than 50% of the company's networth has been eroded during the last few years;